

# **SAWIN HOUSE STUDY COMMITTEE**

**MINUTES – MAY 26, 2015**

**Room 125, COMMUNITY SENIOR CENTER**

**7:00 – 9:00PM**

**APPROVED**

PRESENT: Stephen Evers, Randy Johnson, Elissa Landre, Mike Linehan, John Moran, Jan Parsons, Steve Roche, George Sawin, Ken Soderholm, Wayne Szretter, Amy Ward, Jim Williamson.

ABSENT: Chris Milford.

Meeting called to order by Chair Ken Soderholm at 7:05 PM.

The Chair discussed the draft minutes from the last meeting which suggested that the Natick Historical Society is no longer interested in pursuing a new site for a replica of the Sawin House. He stressed that his comments came from an informal discussion which involved the use of Shaw Park. No formal votes have been taken by the Board members of the Natick Historical Society.

MINUTES from May 19, 2015. Motion to approve, as amended, by Mr. Linehan, second by Mr. Szretter. Vote unanimous in favor.

DISCUSSION of a web site linking Sawin family and Broadmoor site history to Town web site was tabled in Mr. Milford's absence.

DISCUSSION of documents submitted by committee members about ways to structure final report:

Mr. Linehan submitted a document supporting the following items in a final report: a title page, acknowledgements page, page of committee members and charge, an executive summary of no more than two pages, an extensive attachment section including copies of minutes, presentations and appropriate submittals. In the middle: introduction; explanation of conundrum; history and description of house; necessary elements, to save the house; committee conclusions; the future.

Ms. Ward created an outline with these major headings: Introduction/Mission; Committee Investigation; The Building; Options for the building with approximate costs for each section; Funding sources; Building's future feasibility, Memorializing the building; For future study. She also included information from the Paul Revere House website tracing the history of that monument.

Ms. Parsons submitted a document supporting interpretive and educational materials availability at Broadmoor Visitor Center. In addition, development of a pamphlet/map linking the historical sites of Broadmoor to other walking and biking paths between Broadmoor and the Wellesley College campus where Waban Brook crosses Route 16.

Mr. Johnson submitted a document which presents attributes of the Sawin House: High historic significance, last structure on site, presence on South Street, no utility for current owner, deteriorating condition. He proposes that the Committee recommends that the Board of Selectmen direct the Town Administrator to commence discussions with the owner to achieve short term stabilization of structure; possible deeding of structure to town or taking by Eminent Domain. Explore the Massachusetts Preservation Projects Fund of the Mass. Historical Commission.

Mr. Sawin submitted a proposed final report which included the Original Motion and Charge, Formation, Process, Conclusion, and Potential Next Steps and Future Uses. Mr. Sawin stated that he drew on points of consensus. Included was a proposal to make the area a Local Historic District.

Discussion followed about the merit of proposing the Broadmoor area as a Local Historic District. Mr. Evers will research the details involved. Ms. Landre stated that Mass Audubon will consider a written proposal about the idea. Any funds provided from an outside group or foundation would require matching funds from the sponsor.

Mr Moran described the volunteer work that he is doing with Natick Third grade students, giving tours of the cemetery and the dam area in South Natick, under the auspices of the Natick Historical Society.. He believes it is important to have an historic home open to the public, accessible to Natick students, in the South Natick area. Placing the Sawin House in Shaw Park would accomplish this goal.

Mr. Williamson commented that the Town would have to appropriate \$200,000 - \$300,000 to do something meaningful for stabilization; the kind of motion which would be referred at TM.

Mr. Szretter mentioned that money would be needed for ongoing maintenance as well as stabilization. He favors memorialization so that there is only cost figure to calculate.

The Chair stated that next week we will focus on the structure of the report and suggested that committee member draft motions that can be voted upon. He will send out copies of documents submitted on May 25 and 26.

Ms. Ward asked for costs associated with various proposals.

Mr. Evers will research and report on the parameters of Local Historic Districts.

Motion to adjourn at 8:40: Made by Mr. Williamson, second by Mr. Linehan. Passed by unanimous vote.

Next meeting at 7:00 PM on June 2, 2015 at the Community Senior Center.